

Tomohiro TAMAI et al., S.N. 10/587,612
Page 2

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Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraphs at page 6, line 18 through page 7, line 18, in the following manner:

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION BRIEF SUMMARY

~~It is a general object of the present invention to provide a novel and useful image forming apparatus in which the problems described above are suppressed.~~

~~A more specific object of the~~ The present invention is to provide disclosure provides an image forming apparatus which enables detection of a deposit of waste fluid within a waste tank by a relatively simple structure, even when the recording fluid has a relatively high viscosity or easily thickens.

~~Still another object~~ In an aspect of the present invention is to provide a An disclosure, an image forming apparatus for forming an image on a recording medium by ejecting drops of recording fluid from a recording head, is provided comprising a waste tank having a space for containing waste fluid; obtaining means for obtaining a correlation value that has a correlation to a deposited state of the waste fluid in the space within the waste tank; and judging means for judging whether or not the correlation value exceeds a reference value. ~~According to the~~ Such image forming apparatus ~~of the present invention, it is possible~~ allows one to detect a deposit of the waste fluid within the waste tank by a relatively simple structure, even when the recording fluid has a relatively high viscosity or easily thickens.

~~Other objects and further features of the present invention~~ will be apparent from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 4-8, in the following manner:

~~A description will be given of an embodiment of an image forming apparatus~~ of examples and exemplary embodiments according to the present invention will be provided below with reference to Figures 1 through 14. FIG. 1 is a perspective view of ~~this embodiment of the~~ an image forming apparatus, according to an exemplary

Tomohiro TAMAI et al., S.N. 10/587,612
Page 3

Dkt. 2271/76675

embodiment of the present invention disclosure, viewed from a front of the apparatus.

Please amend the paragraph at page 38, lines 14-24, in the following manner:

Moreover, in the embodiment described above, the present invention is applied to the ink-jet recording apparatus or printer. However, ~~the image forming apparatus according to~~ application of the present invention is not limited to ~~[[the]] a~~ printer, and the present invention may be applied to various image forming apparatuses, such as a composite (or multi-function) apparatuses having the functions of the printer, facsimile apparatus and copying apparatus. The present invention is also applicable to image forming apparatuses that use a liquid or fluid other than ink, such as a recording fluid and a fixer or fixing solution.

Please amend the paragraph at page 39, lines 4-7, in the following manner:

Further, the present invention is not limited to ~~[[these]]~~ examples and exemplary embodiments, but various variations and modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the present ~~invention disclosure and the~~ appended claims.